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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/217,542	12/21/1998	JAMES MORRISON	8055	8206

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EXAMINER

LASTRA, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/217,542

Applicant(s)

MORRISON, JAMES

Examiner

DANIEL LASTRA

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1-18 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Addy et al (U.S. 6,056,087) in view of Cotton et al (U.S. 4,630,110).

As per claims 1 and 14, Addy et al teach:

“generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase” (see column 8, lines 58-67 – column 9, lines 1-4).

Addy et al teach a system with a processing unit that monitors output signals generated by a scanner, a video system and a light curtain device in order to supervise and provide security monitoring of a given checkout procedure. In addition, if the light curtain device detects that the customer placed an item in the post-scan area but the video system did not detect motion associated with the customer attempting to scan the item, and the scanner did not read a product identification code associated with the item, it can be inferred with a high degree of confidence that the customer was intentionally operating the self-service checkout terminal improperly. Since the customer

Art Unit: 3622

appears to have made no attempt to scan the item prior to placing the item in the post-scan area, an entry is made in a log. A security officer may be paged to audit or otherwise investigate the customer's transaction if the log entry exceeds a threshold value (see column 8, lines 10-45).

Addy et al do not teach that the output signal generated is a walk-away control signal. However, Cotton et al teach of a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor to determine if the user walks away from the checkout area (as taught by Cotton et al) and that when this occurs before a payment-tendered is generated, security officers would be paged or a video camera would begin recording the area. Adding the Cotton floor sensitive mat to Addy would be an improvement because it would serve as a way to determine if the customer has paid before exiting the store. The Cotton floor mat would indicate if the customer is leaving the terminal and this signal with another indicating if the customer has already paid, would determine if security would need to be paged or not.

As per claims 2 and 15, Addy et al teach:

“operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal” (see column 8, lines 31-45).

As per claims 3 and 16, Addy et al fail to teach, “wherein said step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat and generating said walk-away control signal if said movement of said user is indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said checkout area of said retail store”. However, Cotton et al teach a floor sensitive mat that can sense the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store and, from this information, it would trigger a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is walking away from the checkout area, as taught by Cotton et al. When this occurs before a payment-tendered is generated, security officers would be paged or a video camera would begin recording the area.

As per claim 4, Addy et al teach, “a video system that detects motion associated with the customer moving the unsuccessfully scanned item across the target area of the scanner in a direction which is opposite to the direction that the customer would move the item if the customer was attempting to scan the item. It should be appreciate that such motion is indicative of the customer returning the item to the area proximate the

Art Unit: 3622

scanner for a subsequent scanning attempt. The video system generates an output signal which is sent to the processing unit once the video system has detected the customer returning the unsuccessfully scanned item to the area proximate the scanner" (see column 11, lines 55-67). Addy et al fail to teach that the customer is returning from the shopping area. However, Cotton et al teach of a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is returning to the shopping area and is not leaving the store, and would trigger or disable a signal accordingly.

As per claim 5, Addy et al fail to teach, "wherein said step of detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to said shopping area of said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat in a direction toward said shopping area and generating said return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto". However, Cotton et al teach a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system

Art Unit: 3622

triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is walking-away or returning to the shopping area and would trigger or disable a signal accordingly.

As per claims 6, 12 and 18, Addy et al teach the generation of a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of a control signal and operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal (see column 8, lines 31-45). Addy et al do not teach that the control signal is an existing-store control signal. However, Cotton et al teach a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is walking away from the checkout area, as taught by Cotton et al. When this occurs before a payment-tendered is generated, security officers would be paged or video camera would begin recording the area.

As per claims 7 and 13, Addy et al teach a system with a processing unit that monitors output signals generated by a scanner, a video system and a light curtain device in order to supervise and provide security monitoring of a given checkout procedure. In addition if the light curtain device detects that the customer placed an item in the post-scan area but the video system did not detect motion associated with the customer attempting to scan the item, and the scanner did not read a product identification code associated with the item, it can be inferred with a high degree of confidence that the customer was intentionally operating the self-service checkout terminal improperly. Since the customer appears to have made no attempt to scan the item prior to placing the item in the post-scan area, an entry is made in a "suspicion log". A security officer may be paged to audit or otherwise investigate the customer's transaction if the log entry exceeds a threshold value (see column 8, lines 10-45).

Addy et al fail to teach that a floor mat is used for detecting the presence of a user. However, Cotton et al teach a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is walking away from the checkout area, as taught by Cotton et al. When this occurs before a

payment-tendered is generated, security officers would be paged or a video camera would begin recording the area.

As per claim 8, Addy et al teach:

“generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase” (see column 8, lines 58-67 – column 9, lines 1-4);

Addy et al teach a system with a processing unit that monitors output signals generated by a scanner, a video system and a light curtain device in order to supervise and provide security monitoring of a given checkout procedure. Also, Addy et al disclose that if the light curtain device detects that the customer placed an item in the post-scan area but the video system did not detect motion associated with the customer attempting to scan the item, and the scanner did not read a product identification code associated with the item, it can be inferred with a high degree of confidence that the customer was intentionally operating the self-service checkout terminal improperly. Since the customer apparently made no attempt to scan the item prior to placing the item in the post-scan area, an entry is made in a “suspicion log”. A security officer may be paged to audit or otherwise investigate the customer’s transaction if the suspicion log entry exceeds a threshold value (see column 8, lines 10-45).

Addy et al do not disclose detecting movement of the user on a detection floor mat and generating a walk-away control signal. However, Cotton et al teach a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines 45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the

Art Unit: 3622

store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is walking away from the checkout area, as taught by Cotton et al. If this occurs before a payment-tendered is generated, security officers would be paged or a video camera would begin recording the area.

As per claim 9, Addy et al teach, "operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal" (see column 8, lines 31-45).

As per claims 10, 11 and 17, Addy et al teach, "a video system that detects motion associated with the customer moving the unsuccessfully scanned item across the target area of the scanner in a direction which is opposite to the direction that the customer would move the item if the customer was attempting to scan the item. It should be appreciate that such motion is indicative of the customer returning the item to the area proximate the scanner for a subsequent scanning attempt. The video system generates an output signal which is sent to the processing unit once the video system has detected the customer returning the unsuccessfully scanned item to the area proximate the scanner" (see column 11, lines 55-67). Addy et al fail to teach that the movement detection device is a floor mat. However, Cotton et al teach a floor sensitive mat that senses the direction a person is walking across the mat (see column 10, lines

45-61). The floor sensitive mat can determine if the person is walking out of the store or if the person is entering the store. From this information, the system triggers a signal to turn on surveillance equipment in a point of sale environment (see column 27, lines 35-67 – column 28, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that the Addy et al system would be modified to include a pressure sensitive floor mat to determine if the user is walking away from the checkout area, as taught by Cotton et al. When this occurs before a payment-tendered is generated, security officers would be paged or video camera would begin recording the area.

Response to Arguments

3. The Applicant's arguments filed 10/28/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant questions why the Examiner feels that a person skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine Addy and Cotton. The Examiner answers that adding the Cotton floor sensitive mat to Addy would be an improvement because the Addy self-service checkout terminal would be a way to determine if the customers have paid before exiting the store. The Cotton floor mat would indicate if the customer is leaving the terminal and this signal combined with another indicating if the customer has already paid, would determine if security needs to be paged or not. Therefore, the Cotton floor mat would be a security improvement to the Addy self-service checkout terminal.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

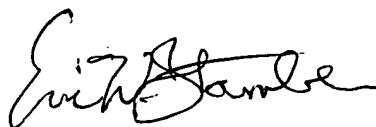
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 703-306-5933. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W STAMBER can be reached on 703-305-8469. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

D.L.

Daniel Lastra
January 5, 2003


ERIC W. STAMBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600